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A Warning-Piece To Young and Old, To have a Care, and Not to keep BAD COMPANY, 'Tis the Forerunner of DESTRUCTION.

II. A Warning-Piece to all Wicked Children, Not to be Disobedient to their Parents.

III. The Blessing of God on Good Children in this World, and that to come.

IV. A Warning-Piece to all Persons, high or low, to have a care, not to persecute the Widdow, the Fatherless, nor the Stranger. The great Reason so many Children go to Hell, is the great fault that Fathers and Mothers do not breed them up in the fear of God.

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A Warning-piece to all Persons not to keep bad Company, &c.

First, **L**OT a gracious Person, when he delayed his coming out of *Sodom*, the Angels of the Lord bid him flee for his Life, lest he was destroyed with the Wicked. *Gen. 19. 17.*

Secondly, **M**oses that was so tender of God's Children, he commands them to stand off the Tents of those wicked Men, meaning *Corah, Dathan, and Abiram* and to touch nothing that did belong to them, lest they were destroyed. See what a dangerous thing it is to touch any thing that does belong to the wicked, *Numb. 16. 26.*

Thirdly, **J**oseph a gracious King as any we read of in the Bible of God, his keeping Company, and making himself Familiar, and helping of wicked King *Ahab*, He was very near losing of his Life, had not he cryed unto the Lord, and the Lord did help him. Have a care how you keep bad Company. Let this Great King be always in your Mind, *1 Cron. 18. 31.* And how severely he was reprov'd by God's Prophet, *2 Chron. 19. 1. 2.* You must not escape God's Judgments if you will keep bad Company.

Fourthly, **A**braham would not stay long in that place, because the People were wicked. Read often the 7th Psalm, 11th Verse. The Lord is Angry every Day with the Wicked. Let this advise you as you value the good of your poor Souls; Have a care both Young and Old how you do keep, or dare to be familiar with bad Company.

Fifthly, Remember 'tis the saying of all poor Creatures that ends their Day at the Gallows; First, Sabbath-breaking; Secondly, Disobedience to their Parents; and, Thirdly, is always bad Company. How many Tears has it cost Parents to see their Children keep bad Company?

Sixthly, Be sure always to have a special care, and not to be a Companion of wicked Persons. Read often Young People, *Prov. 3. 31.* The Curse of the Lord is in the House of the wicked. Says your Lord and Saviour three times in *Mark 9. The wicked shall go to Hell.* If you are resolved to keep bad Company, and will not hearken to the Word of God, nor the Voice of your Conscience; in the end it will prove your Ruin, your Undoing, your Destruction; and there is nothing but God's Judgments will always be at your Heels.

2. Remember **Cain** was a wicked Child; and every Wicked Child is marked by God: He crys out, *His punishment is greater than he could bear:* His Conscience flew in his Face; He called himself a Fugitive and a Vagabond on the Earth, and every one that met him would slay him: a Vagabond and a Rogue, and his Mark is, he was a Murderer; and so he is Recorded to stand for ever, *Gen. 4. 12.*

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2. Here is another wicked Child marked with a terrible Mark, which is the second Son of *Nash*; he sees his Father lies in a Drunken Condition, he mocks his Father, he tells it to his two Brothers, they like good Children take a Garment covers their Father, they saw not his Nakedness. See what follows, these two have a Blessing from their Father; from one proceeds the *Jews*; from the other, the *Gentiles*, and they were both blessed of God. But *Ham* that mocks his Father was Cursed by his Father: Cursed be *Ham* the Father of *Canaan*, they all be a wicked Generation of People, proceeding from him. Have a care all wicked Children, how you have the Curse of your Parents on you, for if you lose the Blessing of your Parents, you cannot shew me one that ever had the Blessing of God. Be sure have a special care not to provoke your Parents to say that in their haste that they may be sorry for, when it is too late. You see this Curse fell on *Ham's* Posterity. Read *Gen* 9. 25.

3. Here is another wicked Child with a sad Mark; *Esau* loses the Blessing of his Father, and could never have the Blessing of God; 'tis poor *Esau's* condition; *Jacob* gets the Father's Blessing, and poor *Esau* loses the Blessing. Read *Gen* 27. 33. How *Esau* lifted up his Voice and Wept bitterly, with exceeding bitter Cry. Hast thou but one Blessing my Father, but one Blessing? and he wept again. Saith his Father to him, *Jacob* is Blessed, and he shall be Blessed: As if his Father should have said, it is too late, I cannot call the Blessing back again; he has got my Blessing, and the Blessing of God will be on him too. And so it was, *Gen* 28. And there you will read that *Jacob* had the Blessing of his Father and the Blessing of God too, they go both hand in hand together: But poor *Esau* could never have it again from his Father nor God.

Read this all poor Children that sets so light, that sets so small a price on the Blessing of your Parents. Read *Heb* 12. 16. 17. *Esau* is called a Profane Person he sought for the Blessing carefully with Tears but could find no place of Repenrance, it was too late, he lost the Blessing of his Father and the Blessing of God, for God has set a Mark on them: There is no Blessing of God belongs to wicked Children; the fifth Commandment is to all Children to Honour their Father and Mother; to those belongs the Blessing of their Parents. King *Solomon* gloried that he had the Blessing of his Father on him,

4. Have a care all poor Children not to have a Mark on you to be of that Number of wicked Children, *Prov* 30. 17. The Eye of that wicked Child that mocks his Father, or his Mother, The Ravens and Eagles shall pick out their Eyes. That is, God's dreadful Judgments shall so low them, that nothing shall prosper that they do. In *Mat* 15. 4. The Lord Jesus Christ commands Children to honour their Father and Mother, that their Days may be long; and he that curses his Father or Mother, to die for it. The same words *Mark* 7. 10. And *St. Paul* commands Children to Obey their Parents in all things that is right, for that is well-pleasing to the Lord, *Col* 3. 20. *Saint Paul* says the time shall come that Children shall be Disobedient: A Child that sets light by his Father or Mother, is Marked by God himself to be a cursed wicked Child, and all the People shall say Amen, *Gen* 27. 30.

Deut. 21, 18. The Stubborn Child is there called by God himself to be a Rebel, and no Death is bad enough for Rebels. And God himself commands to bring this Child out and have him Stoned to Death. What can be more worse in a Nation than Rebels? None are put to such Deaths as Rebels; their very Lives are made odious above all Persons. So it is with all wicked Children, **Exod. 21, 15.** The Child that smites his Father or his Mother, ver. 23: The Child that Curses his Father or his Mother shall be put to Death: No Venome in a Family like wicked Children, remember *El's* Children they were all cut off root and Branch; Have a care all wicked and ungodly Wretches, as you Love your poor Souls, be not Disobedient to your Parents. **Rom. 1, 30.** Disobedient Children deserves to die the Death.

§ Let Children come of never so great a Family, if they are wicked to their Parents, they will come to untimely Ends, **Prov. 20, 20.** The Child that curses his Father or his Mother, his Lamp shall be put out in obscure Darkeness, that is, he shall come to an untimely End. And this was the Sins of *El's* Children, they were wicked, **1 Sam. 3, 13.** and **1 Sam. 4, 17.** And *Eli* himself fell backwards and Died a gracious Person: But he did not restrain his Sons from their wickedness, they all came to untimely Ends. What dreadful Judgments wicked and ungodly Children brings a whole Family to Ruin, and Destruction. You see by this Family of *El's*.

Let all wicked Children tremble and quake, what dreadful Judgments you bring on a Family, for you bring a whole Family to Ruin and Destruction; **1 Sam. 2, 24.** to the end; For all the great Love God had to *Eli*, he would not spare his Wicked Children; For God said it with his own Mouth, *That Sacrifice nor Offering should not purge his House for ever, because he restrained them not.* **1 Sam. 2, 13, 14.** *Eli* and *Samuel*, two gracious Persons as any we read of in the Book of God; *Samuel* pronounced God's Judgments against *Eli*, that they should be destroyed every one of them, and yet you see what Wicked and Ungodly Children *Samuel* had. **1 Sam. 8.** No Poyson like Wicked and Ungodly Children; they bring Destruction, and God's Judgments on a whole Family.

One *Twyerast* in *Abingdon*, in *Barkshire*, made over what he had to his Son, to advance him in the World; he made his Father go a Begging, and when he Dyed the Parish did bury him; He never thrived in the World afterwards.

One *Huseur* in *Barkshire*, near *Reading*, Murder'd his own Father: It was brought to light by one of his own Children, and he was Hang'd for it at *Reading* in *Barkshire*.

Thomas Naish of *St. Albans*, Murdered his own Mother, was Hang'd for it at *St. Albans*, and afterwards hang'd in Chains at the Towns end.

Richard Nowles of *Teabury* in *Gloucestershire*, murdered his own Mother in a most humane manner; he was hang'd for it before the Door where he Murdered her, and afterwards hanged up in Chains at the Towns end.

Let these Judgments of God on Wicked and Ungodly Children, be a Warning to others, to make them quake and tremble. For God will not let Wicked Children go unpunished in this World. For God commands the Father and the Mother to bring Wicked Children out to the Elders

Elders of the City, and have them stoned to Death; and our Saviour says, That Wicked Child that Curses his Father or his Mother, shall die the Death, *Mat. 15. 4. Rom. 1. 29. 30. St. Paul says, These deserve to die the Death, Mark 7. 10.*

Three gracious Persons as ever was in the World, greatly beloved of God, yet God would not spare their Wicked Children. *1 Sam. 1. 25.* Nothing should spare *Eliz's* Family; they were Sons of *Belial*; they were Wicked. *Simeuel*, a gracious Prophet, in favour with God and Man, *1 Sam. 2. 26.* God would not spare his Wicked Children, *1 Sam. 2. 25.* *David* a gracious King, beloved of God, the King did pardon his Wicked Child *Absholom*, *2 Sam. 18. 5.* Yet God would not pardon him; the Boughs of a Oak caught hold of his Head, between the Heaven and the Earth; A dreadful Example of God on Wicked Children.

First, I come now with a few words, to show you that the greatest Persons that ever lived in the World, did ever set a very high Price of the Blessing of their Parents on them, for such Children that had the Blessing of their Parents, always had the Blessing of God. *Abraham* was a great Person, how God did Bless him with such a Blessing, as never none had the like in the World, *12th of Genesis, 3 verse;* Says God, *I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curse thee.* Here God blessed *Abraham*, and *Abraham* blessed *Isaac* above all his Children besides *26 Chapter of Genesis, 3 verse,* and *Isaac* had the blessing of God; says God to *Isaac, I will bless thee, and be with thee.* And when *Jacob* had his Father's Blessing, *Isaac* called *Jacob*, *Gen. 28. verse 1,* and blessed him. And verse 3, says *Isaac* to *Jacob, God Almighty bless thee;* and in verse 14 God Almighty blessed *Jacob*. In the 6th verse of this Chapter, *Isaac* blessed *Jacob* twice. Show me one Person that ever had the Blessing of God till they had first the Blessing of their Parents on them.

Secondly, And after *Isaac* had blessed *Jacob, God Almighty bless thee.* All Children that do truly fear God, are Obedient to their Parents, they well know that then God's Blessing will follow the Blessing of their Parents; Let Persons be ever so great in the World, they set a great Price, a very great value of the Blessing of their Parents, they set a high esteem of it. Children that fears God they look upon the Blessing of their Parents to be the best Coat of Arms in the World, for they know when they have the Blessing of their Parents, it is the ready way to have the Blessing of God on them, *Gen. 35. verse 9,* God blessed *Jacob* again, and here *Isaac's* Prayer was answered by God, he prayed to God to bless *Jacob*; Who would lose the Blessing of their Parents for ten thousand Worlds? What a high price did *Joseph* set on his Father's Blessing on himself, in *Gen. 48 verse 15.* And in the 12 verse, brought his two Sons from between his Knees, and bowed himself down to the Earth; *Hebrews. 11 verse 20, 21.* There it is Recorded to stand for ever, That *Isaac* blessed *Esaue* and *Jacob*; and *Jacob* blessed *Joseph* and his two Sons.

Thirdly, Here is an excellent Lesson to be learned from *Abraham*, that he brought up his Children in the fear of God, *Gen. 19 verse 20,* O that Fathers and Mothers would learn of *Isaac* to beg God's Blessing on their Children; King *Salomon* prized the Blessing of his Father; Now let all learn to prize the Blessing of their Parents, and the Blessing of God, as *Abraham* did, as *Isaac* did, as *Jacob* did, as *Joseph* did, as King *Salomon* did.

as Queen *Ester* did Honour her Uncle *Mordecai*; as *Ruth* did her Mother in-Law *Noomi*. Read all good Children, the first Chapter of *Ruth*, 16 verse; *Intreat me not, where thou goest I will go: where thou lodgest I will lodge, nothing but Death shall part us.* Here are Lessons for all gracious and good Children, to follow the Steps of these great Persons, to pay all Honour, and Respect, and Obedience to your Parents; and whatever goes undone, be sure to secure the Blessing of your Parents on you. And remember your Lord and Saviour was Obedient to your Earthly Parents, *Luke 2. verse 51.* though he was the Son of God, the great Creator of Heaven and Earth, that second Person of the glorious Trinity, yet he was Obedient to his Parents.

Fourthly, The 19th Chapter of *Matthew*, verse 19. that great Person was commanded to Honour his Parents: He told our Lord and Saviour, he had done it from his Youth. Would to God there were more such great Persons as these, *Luke 18. verse 20.* The first Chapter of *Proverbs*, verse 8. *My Son, hear the Instructions of thy Father, and forsake not the Law of thy Mother.* Verse 9. *For they shall be Ornament of Grace to thy Head, and Chains about thy Neck.* These rich, these precious Jewels belong to no Persons but such Children that Honour, that pay Obedience and Respect to their Parents, God gives these Ornaments; these Chains holds them fast to God; Their Parents are the Delight of good Children's Hearts; such Children as these God gives them his Blessing in this World, and that to come.

I knew one *Mr Bellegre* came to London in a mean condition; he thought he could never do so much for his Father; very proud he was of his Father, builded his Father a brave House; He was like *Joseph*, never ashamed of his Father, died very Rich.

I know one *Mr Tulucke* a Soapmaker, a Man a live at this Day, very kind to his Father, God has exceedingly blessed him in this World.

These two Gentlemen came from *Abingdon* in *Barkshire*.

Now you see in the Old Testament, and in the New Testament, all Children, that did fear God, did ever set a high price, a high esteem of such a rich Pearl of such a rich Coat of Arms, of such a rich Jewel as the Blessing of their Parents, that is more worth than ten thousand Worlds, it being once lost, can never be had any more; Pray God a good Children may get the Blessing of their Parents, and never to lose it, if it be his blessed Will.

But to wicked Children, nothing but Plagues and Curses in this Life, and most of them comes to untimely ends, and without God's mercies, eternally Damned in the World to come, which is the portion of wicked Children.

I come now in the next place that all Persons may have a care, and advise all Persons to have a special care not to wrong the Widow, or the Fatherless, nor the Stranger.

I Consider that God is a Father to the Fatherless, a Judge to the Widows Cause; have a care! And who dares to plead against the Fatherless Children, for God, he will be their Father, and he will be the Judge of the Widows Condition? Have you lost a Father on Earth? Yet have the great God of Heaven, who will be your Father that will not leave you, nor forsake you. Have you lost a Husband on Earth? You have

Husband in Heaven, who will judge your Cause, *Psalm 68* :
 care how you wrong the Widdow and the Fatherless, *Deut 27*
 And all such Persons that do wrong the Widdow or the Fatherless,
 the dreadful Judgment of God has fell on them, *Deut 27, 29, 26, 28*
 But care did God take for the Stranger, the Widdow and Fatherless?
 What a sad Complaint does God make against his own Children? Of
 the Widdow, the Fatherless, nor the Stranger, and ye shall
 dwell in this place *Jer 7 6* Have a care as you render the good of your
 poor Children, wrong not, nor oppress the Widdow, neither the
 Fatherless.
 2 Read *Zeck 7 10* Oppress not the Widdow, the Fatherless,
 the Stranger, nor the Poor, nor think not evil in thy Heart,
 Mr Willmots of the Town of Abingdon in Berkshire, was left
 in trust with one Reason's Children, and he wronged them;
 but he and all his family came to poverty: One Mr. *Barrow*
 a Lawyer of the same Parish, wronged one Mr. *Hunt's* Child-
 ren, and he Died little worth: You never knew any Per-
 son that did wrong the Widdow, or the Fatherless, or the
 Stranger, but some dreadful Judgments of God fell on
 them in this Life, Read *Jer 5 28 28* They Judge not the
 Cause of the Fatherless; In this Chapter God declares he will
 be avenged on such a People as this, that wrong the Father-
 less, Read this and tremble, in *Isa 1 3* Thy Princes are Re-
 bels and Companions of Thieves: Every one loveth gifts and follow-
 after Rewards, they judge not the Fatherless, neither doth the
 Cause of the Widdow come unto them: In this very Chapter
 does God threaten them for it: God will never let such go
 unpunished in this VWorld: Be as great as you will in this
 World, God will call you to an Account, for God is ex-
 ceeding Angry with all such Persons as do wrong the Widdow,
 the Fatherless, or the Stranger, or thy Brother in thy
 Heart.

3 Let such Persons be as great as the VWorld can make
 them, God that has promised to be a Father, and to Judge
 the VViddows Cause, is greater than you, and can strike
 you Dead in a moment, and has said he will do it if you vex
 the VViddow and the Fatherless, and when they cry unto
 God he will hear that cry, he will kill their Husbands, the
 VVives shall be VViddows, and their Children Fatherless,
Exod 22 27 27 23. Can you read these Verses, you that are
 Trustees for the VViddow and the Fatherless? How dare
 any Person to wrong or cheat them? See what a Complaint
 the Lord Jesus Christ made against the Scribes and Pharisees
 for their devouring of the VViddows Houses, and if you
 wrong the VViddow, and the Fatherless, remember they
 have God's VVord, he will Judge their Cause, he will stand
 their friend, and no Person is able to stand against God.

Remember and read what God does say in *Mal. 3.* *I will come near to you, I will be a swift Witness against him that does oppress the Widow, the Fatherless, the Stranger; the last part of the verse. Let this be a warning how they do oppress the Widow, the Fatherless, the Stranger, for God will come with speed to take their parts; for God has gave them his Word, his Promise, that in him the Fatherless shall find Mercy. To you that are Widows and Fatherless Children, rejoyce and be glad, you have such a Friend that will make up all your Losses to you; and go to God with this gracious Promise, *Psalm 68. 5.* To thee, O Lord, I come, who promised to be a Father to the Fatherless, a Judge to the Widows Cause: To thee alone I come, who art my God and Father; and God will make all his Promises, and his gracious Word good to thee.*

The Widow and the Fatherless have a God to fly unto in all their Necessities and Troubles, that is able and willing, and will shew them Mercy *Hosai 14. 3.*

Psalm 146. ver. 9. *The Lord preserveth the Stranger; he relieveth the Fatherless and Widow; but the way of the Wicked he turneth upside down.* That is, such Persons as do afflict the Widow and the Fatherless, God will not let such Persons go unpunished; and the Lord Jesus does threaten them with no less punishment than Damnation, *Matth. 23.* ver. 14. *Mark 12.* ver. 40. *Luke 20.* ver. 47. Who is the Man or Woman does dare to wrong, to cheat the Widow or the Fatherless, that has such a Friend as God to stand on their sides; that will be a Father to the Fatherless, and a Husband to the Widow; *Deut. 16.* ver. 11, 14. God Commanded them to rejoyce before the Lord: But God does command them to be sure to call for the Widow, the Fatherless and the Stranger; God commands these must not be forgot in their Feastings: You that are Widows and Fatherless, this gracious and good God will not have you forgotten. Now you that are Widows and Fatherless Children, before not to forget God, who will never leave you, nor forsake you, *Job 29.* 12, 13. verses, *I delivered the Poor; I helped the Fatherless; I made the Widows hearts to sing for joy.* How God did bless Job for it? Now consider, and be contented, and rest your selves satisfied in the arms of this gracious God, and God will be your Friend, and make up all your Losses to you.